

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Ronald L. Harris, chairman, National Religious Broadcasters Executive Committee, who introduced the President; Anthony T. Evans, founder and president, The Urban Alternative; evangelist Rev. Billy Graham; Frank Wright, president, National Religious Broadcasters; radio show host Rush Limbaugh; radio show host and founder of Focus on the Family James Dobson; former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan; and Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

**Statement on the Resignation of
Admiral William J. Fallon as
Commander of United States Central
Command**

March 11, 2008

Admiral William Fallon has served our Nation with great distinction for 40 years. He is an outstanding sailor, and he made history as the first naval officer to serve as commander of Central Command.

From the Horn of Africa to the streets of Baghdad to the mountains of Afghanistan, the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsmen of Central Command are vital to the global war on terror. During his tenure at CENTCOM, Admiral Fallon's job has been to help ensure that America's military forces are ready to meet the threats of an often troubled region of the world, and he deserves considerable credit for progress that has been made there, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan.

With service in Vietnam and as Vice Chief of Naval Operations, commander of Pacific Command, and many other positions, Admiral Fallon has served this country with honor, determination, and commitment. I thank his wife, Mary, who knows that military service involves the whole family, and I wish them all the best as they begin the next chapter in their lives.

**Notice—Continuation of the
National Emergency With Respect to
Iran**

March 11, 2008

On March 15, 1995, by Executive Order 12957, the President declared a national emergency with respect to Iran pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Iran. On May 6, 1995, the President issued Executive Order 12959 imposing more comprehensive sanctions to further respond to this threat, and on August 19, 1997, the President issued Executive Order 13059 consolidating and clarifying the previous orders.

Because the actions and policies of the Government of Iran continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, the national emergency declared on March 15, 1995, must continue in effect beyond March 15, 2008. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to Iran. Because the emergency declared by Executive Order 12957 constitutes an emergency separate from that declared on November 14, 1979, by Executive Order 12170, this renewal is distinct from the emergency renewal of November 2007. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 11, 2008.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
9:14 a.m., March 12, 2008]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 12, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on March 13.

**Message to the Congress on
Continuation of the National
Emergency With Respect to Iran**

March 11, 2008

To the Congress of the United States:

The crisis between the United States and Iran constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Iran that led to the declaration of a national emergency on March 15, 1995, has not been resolved. The actions and policies of the Government of Iran are contrary to the interests of the United States in the region and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Iran remains the world's most active state sponsor of terrorism, and continues to provide lethal support to Lebanese Hizballah, HAMAS, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and numerous other terrorist organizations in the region, as well as to the Taliban in Afghanistan and various Iraqi militant groups. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Iran and maintain in force comprehensive sanctions against Iran to respond to this threat.

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the Iran emergency declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2008.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 11, 2008.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 12.

**Remarks to the United States
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**

March 12, 2008

Gracias. Thank you. *Sientese.* *Gracias mi amigo* David. Thank you for having me back yet again to speak. This is an opportunity *de practicar mi Espanol*. [Laughter] Of course, a lot of people say I ought to be spending more time practicing my English. [Laughter] But I'm thrilled to be with you.

I really love the entrepreneurial spirit in all communities. And it's evident in the Latino community. As you know, I'm blessed to be a Texan, and I got to see firsthand, as Governor, the unbelievable initiative and drive of Hispanics who lived in my State. And it's the same thing all across the country. And so part of the purpose for me to come is to thank you for your helping others realize the blessings of owning a small business; thanks for creating jobs; thanks for setting good examples; and thanks for being my friend.

David, as you know, I've been to the Hispanic Chamber—I think this is my third time, but I know a lot of you personally. And this may be my farewell address to the Hispanic Chamber as President, but it's certainly not going to be my farewell to you as a friend.

I thank not only David but Augie Martinez. I thank the directors of the Hispanic Chamber. I thank my old buddy Hector Barreto, who is here with us, who—[applause]—Michael Barrera, thank you both. Appreciate you, Miguel.

And then there are members of my Cabinet who have come because today I'm going to discuss with you a very serious issue, an issue that matters a lot to your future and the future of this country. And so I welcome Secretary of Defense Bob Gates, Secretary of the Treasury Hank Paulson, Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer, Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez. Elaine Chao, Secretary of Labor, is with us. Susan Schwab of the USTR—Trade Representative is with us. This is not a Cabinet meeting. [Laughter]

These are people who are here to put an exclamation point on the subject I'm going to discuss with you today. And so I thank you all for coming. I appreciate your time.